

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claim 1 (Currently Amended):** A seat folding mechanism comprising:

front and rear stays ~~(2a, 2b)~~ that are L-shaped, inverted L-shaped or ~~transversal~~ transverse T-shaped, rotatably supported on side frames ~~(5)~~ about around longitudinal shafts ~~(21)~~; and

a seat plate ~~(11)~~ supported by cross bars ~~(22)~~ of the front and rear stays, ~~the front with tip~~ ends of said cross bars and the seat plate are being connected rotatably freely ~~about the~~ around a first axis shaft (62) running in front and rear directions and ~~about the~~ around a second axis shaft (61), which is parallel to ~~the above~~ one of said longitudinal ~~shaft shafts~~, in positions closer to ~~the~~ a side edge (12)[,] which is farther from the side ~~frame frames~~ of the seat plate.

**Claim 2 (Currently Amended):** A seat folding mechanism as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~comprising the~~ side frames ~~(5)~~ are located at left and right sides of a seat ~~(4)[[;]]~~, and a ~~the~~ seat plate ~~(11)~~ is split into left and right parts~~[[;]]~~, wherein the left and right parts of the seat plate are mounted ~~respectively on the~~ respective sides of the side frames ~~(5) located at respective sides with the mechanism contained in claim 1.~~

**Claim 3 (Currently Amended):** A seat folding mechanism as claimed in ~~claims~~ claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the longitudinal shafts ~~(21)~~ of the stays ~~(2a, 2b)~~ are is tilted forward and are rotatably supported on the side frames ~~(5)~~.

**Claim 4 (Currently Amended):** A seat folding mechanism as claimed in ~~claims~~ claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein the ~~front tip~~ ends of the cross bars (22) and the seat plate (11) are connected by a synchronous rotating mechanism ~~(6)~~ which connects the rotating angle ~~about around~~ the first axis shaft (62) running in the front and rear directions and ~~that the rotating angle around about the~~ second axis shaft (61) parallel to one of the longitudinal ~~shaft shafts~~ at a relationship of 1:1.

**Claim 5 (Currently Amended):** A seat folding mechanism as claimed in ~~claims~~  
claim 1 or 2, ~~wherein~~ further comprising a backrest (3), wherein the backrest is  
mounted on the rear stays (2b).

**Claim 6 (Currently Amended):** A seat folding mechanism as claimed in claim 2,  
~~wherein~~ further comprising a backrest (3), wherein the backrest (3) is mounted on  
either one of the left and right rear stays (2b).

**Claim 7 (Currently Amended):** A seat folding mechanism as claimed in claim 2,  
further comprising a footrest (4) which is supported for moving back and forth,  
wherein the footrest (4) is connected to a front end of a joining rod (42) which extends  
beneath the seat from ~~the~~ a lower end of the front stays (2a) via a link or a long hole  
(41) extending in left and right directions.

**Claim 8 (Currently Amended):** A seat folding mechanism as claimed in claim 7,  
wherein the footrest (4) comprises a knee pushing plate (43) extending upward from  
~~its~~ a front edge portion of the footrest.

**Claim 9 (Currently Amended):** A wheelchair, comprising: a planar U-shaped or  
M-shaped frame (50), which connects left and right side frames 5 at ~~the~~ a front of ~~the~~  
an occupant's lower limbs, with the occupant's backside including lower limbs open;  
a seat (1) supported by the frame; a space (55) of the side frames with the rear side  
open to allow an edge of a bed to be inserted from backside to underneath of the seat;  
~~wherein comprising~~ a seat plate (11) split from the center into left and right parts;  
stays (2a, 2b) supporting the left and right parts of the seat plates with respective side  
frames (5), the left and right parts of the seat plate ~~are~~ being folded toward a side of  
the occupant and toward a an upper rear direction with the surface of the seat plate  
~~kept turned~~ upright, by means of their rotations ~~about~~ around support shafts (21) of  
the stays.

**Claim 10 (Currently Amended):** A wheelchair as claimed in claim 9, ~~wherein~~  
further comprising a front wheel (81) of large diameter having a hand rim and  
supported pivotably on the side frames (5)[[;]], and a rear wheel (82) of small  
diameter swinging ~~about~~ around a vertical support shaft to change direction.

**Claim 11 (Currently Amended):** A wheelchair as claimed in ~~claims~~ claim 9 ~~or 10~~,  
further comprising a support table (32) supporting an upper body of the occupant[[;]],  
an ascend drive or ascend exerting device (71) for the support table[[;]], linkage  
mechanisms (24, 79) having an engaging-disengaging means (75) for folding the seat  
plate (44) when ascending and unfolding the seat plate when descending[[;]], and a  
lock device (76) for maintaining the seat plate (44) ~~at~~ in a folded state.

**Claim 12 (New):** A wheelchair as claimed in claim 10, further comprising a support  
table supporting an upper body of the occupant, an ascend drive or ascend exerting  
device for the support table, linkage mechanisms having an engaging-disengaging  
means for folding the seat plate when ascending and unfolding the seat plate when  
descending, and a lock device for maintaining the seat plate in a folded state.